

EVERETT COMMUNITY STREETS INITIATIVE TASK FORCE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2014

3:00 – 6:00 P.M.

WEYERHAEUSER ROOM, EVERETT STATION, 3201 SMITH AVENUE

MEETING 8

Draft Meeting Summary

Task Force Members Attending:					
Chris Adams	X	Sylvia Anderson	X	Jonathan Apuan	X
Glen Bachman	X	Sophia Beltran	X	Flora Diaz	
Bob Dobler	X	Alan Dorway	X	Megan Dunn	X
Cassie Franklin	X	Linda Grant	X	GeorgaDee MacLeod	X
Mark Mantei	X	Mark Nysether	X	Ed Petersen	X
Renee Quistorf		Robert Reese	X	Marilyn Rosenberg	
Matthew Savage	X	Tom Sebastian	X	Craig Skotdal	X
Joyce Stewart	X	Julie Zarn			
Task Force Member Alternates Attending:					
James Upton	X				
City/County/Housing Authority Staff & Support Team Attending:					
Ty Trenary		David Hall	X		
Dan Templeman	X	Ken Stark	X	Bob Downey	
Deborah Wright	X	Ashley Lommers-Johnson		Karen Reed, Facilitator	X

Welcome and Introductions: Karen greeted the group and the Task Force introduced themselves.

Review of Agenda and Materials: Karen reviewed the agenda and materials.

Co-Chairs Remarks: Chris Adams said the meeting today is about setting priorities and starting the discussion about the draft report. The document in the packet is a great start and Task Force input is very important. He said both he and Sylvia as Co-Chairs recommend the Task Force reconvene at 6 months and again at 12 months. This would ensure accountability of the Task Force recommendations. Sylvia Anderson thanked the Task Force for their time which has been a minimum of 7-8 hours a month. She thanked the people who came to observe the meetings and leave their comments.

Approval of Meeting 7 Summary Minutes: The Task Force approved the minutes without any corrections or changes.

Prioritization of Recommendations

Introductory Comments from Co-Chairs: Sylvia said the purpose of today's meeting is to try and come to a consensus on prioritizing 12 items as both short term (less than 2 years) and long term recommendations. Some of the items Mayor Stephanson has already recognized in his letter to the Task Force. Chris and Sylvia are in agreement in the fact that they want the Task Force to come up with some priorities.

Karen added that the proposal by the Co-Chairs was for the Task Force to agree to endorse the Mayor's recommendations as priorities, and then find additional priorities, since 4 of the 5 Mayor's recommendations are supported by the Task Force at the last meeting with 80% consensus.

Q: How do we voice our objections to a recommendation?

A: According to the Charter, a minority opinion is stated in a short statement in the report.

Q: I am looking for clarification of the Mayor's recommendation increasing police presence with social services outreach. Aren't both item 11 and 16 are the same thing?

A: Item 5 in the Mayor's letter addresses both increased police presence and social service outreach in the commercial core area. They are both recommended by the Mayor

Comment (Alan Dorway): I'd like to include a minority statement in opposition to item 3 [amending panhandling ordinance to prohibit panhandling at intersections and median strips.]

Chris Adams noted that he and Sylvia and approached the concept of prioritization from two different perspectives and still came to agreement. The process of discussing the items today will help the group as a whole decide which items the Task Force is in agreement on as prioritizes.

Small Group Discussions: The Task Force broke out into 4 groups to discuss which items should be included as priority recommendations, considering all consensus and recommended items on the ballot. The groups reported back out after about 50 minutes of discussion. After deliberation, the Task Force voted to move the following items as priorities, and to ensure all of the priority items were reflected as consensus items on the ballot:

The items the Mayor has indicated he will pursue [numbers correspond to the item numbers on the ballot included in the packet materials]:

- Alcohol Impact Areas (#3)
- Amending aggressive panhandling at intersections and median strips (#10)
- Increasing law enforcement presence in the commercial core areas and incorporated social series outreach (#11, 16)
- A multi-agency team to develop plans to deal with individuals who are frequent utilizers of the systems (criminal justice, EMS, hospital). (#15)
- Establish a jail transition services facility at the Carnegie building (#6)

In addition, there was consensus to identify the following as priority recommendation items:

- Expand use of therapeutic courts (#2)
- Adjust jail release time (#4)
- Ensure released inmates and other dislocated individuals are returned to their place of origin (#9, #28)

- Implement best practices at meal programs (#36)
- Map resources available in the City for those experiencing homelessness (#70)
- Increase capacity of and access to drop in day centers (#20)
- Expand countywide capacity to serve specialized treatment needs of homeless populations (#29)
- Provide more shelter bed capacity to serve a range of populations (#50)
- Expand use of the “housing first” model and explore efforts to develop low cost and non-traditional housing options (#51)
- A housing levy (city or county), and in connection with this, advocate for more money from the State Housing Trust Fund (#81,83)
- Work with other cities in the County to address homelessness (#72)
- Advocate for additional resources to address street level social issues, from the state, federal, and private funding sources (#82,84)

Review and Comment on Draft Task Force Report

Karen explained she consolidated the consensus and recommended items into a coherent set of strategies in all 6 categories. The group reviewed the document page by page and offered comments and questions.

Q: Will the listed recommendations in the draft report be changed to reflect today’s voting?

A: Karen proposes she will create an additional document to append to the Executive Summary to reflect priority recommendations.

Q: I noticed we outlined issues from the focus groups. I don’t see the concerns of the business owners from our tour with them, or that we describe our visit with business leaders. It seems unbalanced.

A: Karen wanted to highlight the fact that there was an extensive effort to meet with homeless individuals and get their feedback.

The Challenge

The group agreed to add: not enough focus on strategic solutions or comprehensive solutions”to the bullet possible misallocation of resources under institutional challenges.

The group agreed to include reference to EMS, Hospital Emergency Rooms and Humans Services to the first bullet on Institutional challenges.

The Task Force agreed to put in bold face the sentence at the bottom of page 3 to call attention to the reasons behind homelessness.

Task Force Recommendations

The Task Force agreed to the following changes in the Task Force Recommendations:

Category 1

Strategy 1.1 The Task Force agreed to add the words “explore use of qualified non-commissioned personnel.”

Comment: Alan Dorway noted his opposition to the second bullet point on page 6 to amend the aggressive begging ordinance; he will email Karen a sentence to reflect his minority opinion.

Strategy 1.3 The Task Force recommends adding a cross reference to item 28.

Category 2

The Task Force agreed no wording change was needed relating to the Recovery Café project. A wording change was endorsed under the “Policy Goals” section to affirm Task Force support for the “Housing First” model.

Strategy 2.2 The Task Force agreed to change the wording about establishing a unified call center to delete reference to the Everett Transit Center but clarify that such a center should be located near transit services.

Strategy 2.4 The Task Force agreed to change the word from “re-direction” to “expanded” use of PATH resources in the 4th bullet.

Strategy 2.5 Cross reference Strategy 1.3 and item 28.

Category 3

Karen noted she inserted Point in Time (PIT) data to reflect the City of Everett count, rather than the Countywide Count. Also, the City doesn’t have a count of needed affordable housing units, only total units, so that language will be adjusted. Cassie Franklin asked for text to be added to the footnote on the PIT count data noting that young adults – 18-24—are included in the chronic homeless adult count.

The Task Force agreed that some wording should be included to note support for the Compass Center and Everett Gospel Mission and that both are examining the need for expanded facilities.

Category 4: no changes suggested to the draft report.

Category 5: no changes suggested to the draft report.

Category 6: Karen will add reference to item #86 (the city’s budget should reflect the City’s moral values) to the ‘Challenge’ section.

The Task Force agreed the report should clarify the Task Force encourages the public to give money to service providers and add the phrase so the money can go where it will be best utilized. (Item #80)

Conclusion

Next Steps: Karen will add that the group agreed to reconvene every 6-12 months for two years.

Other: The Task Force agreed to switch 3.1 and 3.2 to reflect shelter housing is at the forefront as a short term recommendation.

Karen will send the report out with changes. It should get signed off at Meeting 9. The group will also be asked to consider a “communications roll-out plan” including a list of groups to which the Co-Chairs could present the Task Force’s recommendations.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50.